



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061-1780

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2022

At Church on Sundays:

- ◆ **8:30am** Early Informal Service - Outdoor Chapel weather permitting
- ◆ **9:30 am** Sanctuary Service
Also streaming live on Facebook, available on YouTube same afternoon
- ◆ Sunday School & Youth Group—see inside for details.

We are on the Web:

www.fumceg.org

www.facebook.com/FUMCEG

Phone: (518) 477-9693

Fax: (518) 477-4336

Church Office Hours:

Through June 10:

9 am to 2:30 pm M - F

June 13 through August 29:

9:00 am to 1:00 pm M - F

Email:

office@fumceg.org

BELL/Bulletin (only) Email:

editor@fumceg.org

Children's Education Email:

egchristianedfumc@gmail.com

Youth Ministries Email:

FUMCEG.youth@gmail.com

Sundar R. Samuel, Pastor

Gail Welkley,

Administrative Assistant

A Time for Everything (paraphrase of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. 14)

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens.*

2

*A time to create and a time to tend,
A time to sow and a time to gather.*

3

*A time to stand up and a time to lift up,
A time to take down and a time to repair,*

4

*A time to weep and a time to laugh,
A time to mourn and a time to dance,*

5

*A time to forget and a time to remember,
A time to embrace and a time to wear masks,*

6

*A time to search and a time to give up,
A time to keep and a time to throw away,*

7

*A time to feed and a time to knit,
A time to be silent and a time to sing,*

8

*A time to care and a time to love,
A time to hang on to and a time to let go.*

A time to know that everything that God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it.

Dear friends and family,

Late afternoon seems like an appropriate time to leave a note to all of you as the day is waning and so is our time with you. We are blessed to have had this time with you. How we have loved walking beside you, worshipping with you, standing with you, breaking bread with you, blessing your babies, and uplifting all your loved ones!

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A Reconciling Congregation

(Continued from page 1)

The lessons we learned with and through you have changed the way we see God working in and through us each day! Your children are so eager to learn about and share Jesus's love. We pray that God will continue to help you fan that flame.

One of our favorite camp songs is:

*BIND US TOGETHER, Lord, Bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord,
Bind Us Together,
Bind us together with love.*



We are thankful the fire pit was built and is now ready for another season of singing and sharing and allowing God to bind you all together as you share S'mores, songs, and smiles.

We know that when two or three gather in Christ's name God is there working through and making strong cords of love and care. We know those same cords will hold us together as they are woven from many times together: book studies, lunches, coffee and tea times, communion, reopening task force meetings after church each Sunday, baptisms, celebrations of life, dominoes, local missions, retreats, worship and Bible Study at Hawthorne Ridge, ministering at Riverside, mentoring, trips to New York City with the confirmands, prayer vigils, chapel services.

This is a time to remember that we are living in God's time and in God's time we will finish packing and journey down the road to our next assignment where we look forward to serving our God there while being held by the bonds we have formed here.

We will continue to cheer for you as you run the race God has set before you. Be strong, courageous and faithful as you continue to care for all who need a sanctuary within the church.

As we leave you very soon we covet your prayers for us and our daughters and their families: Anna and Derek (Samuel, Luna), Elizabeth and Stephen, (Benjamin, Eliana, Zachary, Olivia, Isabella).

Our love,
Pastor Samuel and Deb

HELP – NAMES OF GRADUATES NEEDED

Our church needs information on both our **High School and College 2022 graduates**, to be listed in the Sunday bulletin and The Summer BELL. To help make this happen, please send a graduate's name(s), school(s), and information about future plans to Gail Welkley, our Administrative Assistant, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. So that we don't miss anyone, even if you have just a name, pass it on and we will collect the other information. Email to office@fumceg.org or call 518-477-9693.

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SOME NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP FOR JUNE

Get ready for a very busy month. First thing, start the month by checking your closets or dresser drawers for something red to wear to church on **June 5**. That's Pentecost Sunday. *Happy Birthday Church!*



Now, let's take a look at some changes in our Sunday routine happening this month. Early worship at 8:30 am outdoors at Chapel in the Woods has already begun and will continue until fall. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

On **Sunday June 19** we will move into our summer mode and move to the Fellowship Hall for our 9:30 am morning worship service. Technologically, the Fellowship Hall services will continue to be live streamed on Facebook. As of our publication date, these services will **not** be posted later on YouTube.

Pastor Sundar is preparing for his new assignment in Vestal and will be preaching the first three Sundays in June, his last Sunday sermons in East Greenbush. George Herrick will lead worship on **June 26**.

Turn now to some dates and events in the month.

June 5 is Pentecost, one of the top three most important dates in the Christian faith. For a quick reminder of the meaning of this day, take a look at <https://chuckknowschurch.com/archive/29pentecost>. **Don't forget**, wear something red for morning worship. This is Holy Communion Sunday for June. Special on this Sunday, this year's Confirmation Class will reaffirm their baptismal vows for themselves. One more, our First Communion class will be recognized. Help celebrate these two groups of our youth at the Garden Party following morning worship.

June 12 is Trinity Sunday and also **Peace with Justice Sunday**. "United Methodists relate to this special Sunday by seeking peaceful solutions, creating and supporting peace-related ministries in their conference and learning about peaceful, just efforts around the world."

June 14 is Flag Day. **June 19** is Father's Day and also Juneteenth, now a federal holiday. **June 21** is the First Day of Summer. **June 28** is John Wesley's birthday. "John Wesley was born on 28 June [O.S. 17 June] 1703 in Epworth, (England). . . He was the fifteenth child of Samuel Wesley and his wife Susanna Wesley."

Last note this month. Please get back in the habit of wearing your name tag for worship services. They will be a big help for our new leader, Pastor Danyal when he joins us on July 1st and as he tries to connect names and faces.



LECTIONARY FOR JUNE

June 5—Pentecost Sunday—Acts:10:21; Psalms 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17 (25-27)

June 12—1st Sunday after Pentecost—Trinity Sunday—Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalms 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

June 19—2nd Sunday after Pentecost—1 Kings 19:1-15a; Psalms 42; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

June 26—3rd Sunday after Pentecost—2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalms 77:1-2, 11-20; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hello Sunday School Families,

It's hard to believe that summer is already here! **May 29** will be our last traditional Sunday School service for the year. This is because on **June 5** we will be holding First Communion and Confirmation during our 9:30 am service. After services, there will be a Garden Party for our newest Confirmands, we hope you can join us! Then on Sunday, **June 19** will be Pastor Sundar's last service before he moves on to his new assignment.



This year from **July 6 - August 3, Vacation Bible School** will take place from 6:00 pm — 7:30 pm. If you would like to register your child, please contact Amanda Trainor for a registration form. The theme is **Food Truck - On a Roll with Jesus**. We will need volunteers, please let us know you are interested in helping!

Blessings, Amanda

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Can we believe it is the end of the 2021-22 school year. Sadly that means we will have only a few more meetings before Summer begins. We will see each other again in September after only a few short months away.

June seems to be busy for us all.



Senior Youth will meet after church on **June 12** until 12:30 pm. We will do Funplex in the fall as our meet and greet with Pastor Danyal.

I hope to see all Youth at the Pastor and Deb's farewell party on **June 12** from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Junior Youth Group 3rd -5th grade

Junior Youth Group will meet Sunday, **June 5** after the Garden Party until 12:30 pm. We will be tie dyeing and doing a fun science experiment that will help us connect to God. Since the Garden Party will have snacks we will just be doing our activities.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UMW)

On Monday, **June 6** at 6:00 pm the United Women in Faith will have it's annual end of the year get together at the church this year. We will have pizza and play games. Lorraine Beals always makes this a fun time. All women of the church are invited to attend. There will be no business meeting.



The UMW needs a recording secretary. If you are interested please see Patty Chartrand or Kathy Van Buren.

The UMW participated in the Food Truck Festival on Saturday, May 21. We held a bake sale and earned \$503 and sold 4 cookbooks for \$20. Thank you to all who provided us with delicious cookies and brownies.



There are funds available for any of church youth who wish to attend any one of our church camps like Skye Farm.

A REVIEW OF "CHANGE THE WORLD" EVENTS



"And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love" (Peter Scholtes). You may not have known that you were recognized last month during our ninth annual Change the World event but it was pretty obvious. You (or your efforts) were seen by others near and far. Jesus said, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35.) Your love took many forms.



Two carloads of groceries were donated during a food drive held at church on May 1. They were delivered to Veterans at the VA Center in Albany and to the local food pantry, CoNSERNS-U.

Three members of our church joined about twenty volunteers at the Riverfront Park in Rensselaer in early May for a couple of hours and gathered more than 500 pounds of trash, thus diverting it from the Hudson River!



About a dozen children and adults met to pot 120 marigolds that were then delivered to residents of Rosewood Rehabilitation Center. One of the greatest joys is knowing that you are not forgotten!

Shoebboxes were filled with personal hygiene products again this year for needy families in Kentucky as part of the Redbird Mission. The final count will be included in next month's Bell.



On Change the World Sunday, about 30 people met in Fellowship Hall to enjoy a cup of coffee, refreshments and fellowship while making cards for nursing home residents, the VA Center, Blue Star Mothers, and Community Hospice. Eight members of our Youth Group prepared 40 bagged lunches and delivered them to the Interfaith Homeless Shelter in Albany. Thirteen volunteers also helped clean, disinfect and organize the education closet.

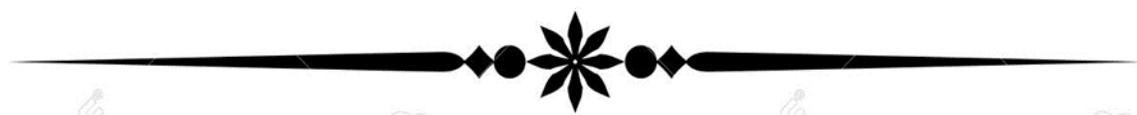


Many people participated in the Share the Love Challenge by sending reminders of God's love throughout the month of May.



We thank all who participated in this year's Change the World event. You certainly made a difference. Project coordinators deserve a special thanks for their time and effort: **Lorraine Beals, Aleta Schweigert, Carrie Larson, Amber Telford, Amanda Trainor, and Kevin Conley.** We also appreciate the support of our pastor, Sundar Samuel.

John Schmidt, Change the World Coordinator



"Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God."
(2 Corinthians 9:13)

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Battery Capacity/ Range. The energy capacity of the battery pack in an electric vehicle dictates the distance that a vehicle can travel between charges and the cost of operating the vehicle. If you have more battery than what you need for most of your driving, the additional battery weight now needs to be transported by the vehicle at a higher cost than what a lower capacity battery would. This should be a consideration in the purchase of a BEV or PHEV.

Temperature Extremes. Extremely hot and very cold temperatures affect the performance of BEVs and PHEVs which results in shorter ranges during the summer and winter months. Consequently, you would need to purchase an EV or PHEV that has a higher capacity than your normal commute would require to offset impacts from extreme temperatures. Please note that PHEVs will require the engine to run in extremely cold weather or periodically to condition the internal combustion engine.

The availability of recharging stations and recharging times are still big challenges to the acceptance of BEVs. Manufacturers, the federal and state governments are working on these issues to achieve much lower GHG emissions from the transportation sector.

State and/or federal tax credits may be available for the purchase or lease of select BEVs or PHEVs.

[1] <https://law.lclark.edu/live/blogs/156-car-emissions-are-a-major-source-of-pollution->

[2] <https://www.forbes.com/wheels/news/automaker-ev-plans/>

[3] <https://advocacy.consumerreports.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/EV-Ownership-Cost-Final-Report-1.pdf>

[4] <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/comparative-life-cycle-greenhouse-gas-emissions-of-a-mid-size-bev-and-ice-vehicle>.

Made By Hand with Love Outreach Missions

This year our Made by Hand group has been a real joy for us. We have created dozens of projects to benefit others in our community. And, we have had fun in fellowship with one another! Many of these projects will be delivered soon. But the handiwork continues. For the fall we will be focusing on soft hats of any size, color, or shape for hatsgiving.org. and Red Scarves (5-8 inches by 60 inches long) for foster care kids in college fc2success.org. Thank you to everyone creating love. Tuesday **June 7** we are celebrating the end of our season by meeting at The Crisp Cannoli at 11:00 am. Everyone is invited to join us there. Hope to see you soon.



aleta.schweigert@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY GROUP

We are looking to expand our new Hospitality Group. We are part of the caring Ministry. What do we do in the group, Coordinate meals for someone who is ill, a family who has lost a loved one, when a baby is born, and when someone is recovering from a surgery. We also will be coordinating Coffee Hours and helping with new groups coming into the building. We are looking for any individuals that would like to volunteer and be part of our group. We will start out meeting once a month at a time best for everyone. Please see Amber Telford for more information at youthleaderamber@gmail.com



Do you like to cook ? Do you like to bake? We are looking for anyone who would like to be on a church wide list to be called when someone may need a meal. We would reach out to you when a meal is needed, you can cook the meal and we would do the rest. There is a sign up sheet in the lobby or you can see or email Amber Telford at youthleaderamber@gmail.com

LOCAL PASTOR LICENSING SCHOOL AT CAMP CASOWASCO



Friends, last week I attended Local Pastor Licensing School at Camp Casowasco. I joined nine other UMC members, led by Rev. Caroline Simmons, in a series of courses preparing us to be appointed to a local church to serve as pastor. Our instructors included Deacons, Elders, Conference staff, District Superintendents, and Local Pastors. We learned about Spiritual Formation, UMC History and Tradition, Polity, Worship Leadership, Pastoral Care, and Preaching. Each of us had to present a brief sermon and we were gentle in our responses to one another. The

coursework is aptly described as "drinking from a fire hose", but this is just the start of the journey and there are several courses in the "Course of Study" classes offered during the year.

I left my home Monday morning and didn't know what to expect. What came was a packed week of worship, prayer, praise, song, and sharing of ourselves that will remain with me forever. We shared meals together; the fare was great and our cooks were very much appreciated. We had one night off for a campfire and s'mores. Otherwise we were in class from nine until dusk. The rooms were comfortable and the grounds divine; along with weather akin to Eden. Clear blue skies, warm temperatures, and light breezes were welcome.

I can't begin to tell you what a spiritual time it has been. I haven't laughed so much or well in years with my new friends as we told our stories. There were tears, as well, since we've had losses; we picked each other up and acknowledged the long road that life can be. One of our classmates appears to be sought by two DS's and a Conference leader for an appointment. We predicted a wrestling match as to who might claim them! Most of my fellows are further along in the process; I was a last-minute addition to the roster. I'm grateful to Pastor Sundar and our DS, Debbie Earthrowl, for allowing me to attend.

I returned home Sunday night, bodily exhausted, but spiritually filled. I look forward to learning more and meeting others in our walk with Christ in The United Methodist Church.

Blessings, David (Haase)

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY BEGINS ELEVENTH SEASON

Our Adopt-a-Highway Program got off to a strong start on April 2. Nine hearty volunteers turned out on a chilly morning to clean up a two-mile section of Routes 9 & 20. The Eco-Team would like to thank Gary Klee, John Peterson, Mike and Ricky Lettrick, John Schmidt and our newest crew members: Juliana, Sarah and Jamie Davis, and Candy Schechter. The Adopt-a-Highway Program is sponsored by the Department of Transportation. Our next clean-up is scheduled for **June 4**, at 8:00 AM. Please consider joining us as stewards of the planet to help keep America beautiful!



SUMMER PART TIME CUSTODIAN NEEDED



SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee) is looking for a parttime custodian for this summer 10+ hours per week and to cover for the primary custodian when needed. Please call Tom McLaughlin at 518-477-9837 to apply and for additional information.

“Mahjong Mavens”

Interested in playing or learning to play this fun “tile” game? On Tuesday, **August 23** at 1:00 pm we will have our first get together where you can play or learn to play Mahjong. There is not cost and materials will be provided – the game tiles and Mahjong cards. It is a fun game and keeps you thinking. Please let Nancy Keenholtz (518-491-2802) or Kathy Van Buren (518-477-6292) know if you want to join us. Or just come and watch. Room 15 is reserved for our group every Tuesday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm and you can come whenever you can to participate.



A RECENT PRESS RELEASE

“WASHINGTON — The United Methodist Council of Bishops expressed gratitude for the Judicial Council decision released May 20. The United Methodist Church’s top court said that bishops can schedule jurisdictional conferences to elect and assign new U.S. bishops amid pandemic-caused disruptions. The Council of Bishops has tentatively set **November 2-5** for jurisdictional conferences.” More information about future meetings and conferences should be available in the near future.

STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

What makes a church go? One answer is a strong staff. The go-to people who have answers to many of our questions. On Sunday, May 22 we took time during the morning worship service and the coffee hour that followed to say thanks. It was during the reception that the staff gathered in the courtyard for this picture.



Gail Welkley, Administrative Assistant; Sundar Samuel, Pastor; Amber Telford, Youth Leader; Amanda Trainor, Dir. Of Children’s Education; Chis Chartrand, Custodian; Jackie Krahforst, Organist; Cindy McLaughlin, Dir. of Bell Choirs; and Robert Thomsen, Choir Director. Missing from picture Christopher Chartrand, Asst. custodian.

TWO SPECIAL ITEMS OF NOTE

Here is a link for quick review of the year’s activities at Cornerstone, the Protestant Campus Ministry at SUNYAlbany. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqv9wxoPX24> Take a few minutes, it’s worth the look. If you look close enough, you may even recognize a couple of faces.

“**Building youth leadership throughout UNY**” is the title of an article in the current issue of Upper New York Advocate. It was written by our own Kevin Clark who is the CCYM Publicity Chair. Copies of The Advocate and Kevin’s article are on the table in the church foyer.



- ◆ A correction to the May issue of The Church BELL. In Sundar’s letter, bottom of page 1, “Rev. Grace Mathieu” should be “Rev. Grace Imathiu”. She is the senior pastor of First UMC, Evanston, Illinois.
- ◆ Plan ahead! Save the date! The Cornerstone Campus Ministry Fall Fund-raiser will be held Wednesday, **September 21**. More information to come in The Summer BELL.

- ◆ June is time for Capital Pride 2022 in Albany. Check this link, <https://www.518capitalpride.com/> for a listing of activities for the month.



A RECONCILING MINISTRY EVENT

In June, Burnt Hills UMC will be hosting J.J. Warren, theologian, author and activist, for two events. J. J. is the author of *Reclaiming Church, A Call to Action for Religious Rejects* and a recent graduate of Boston University School of Theology. J.J. is a member of the Penn Yan United Methodist Church, part of our Upper New York Conference.



JJ Warren speaking at general conference 2019

On **Saturday, June 11**, at 10:00 am, J.J. will kick off an outdoor Reconciling Tent Revival with a keynote address, followed by a panel discussion and book-signing. When you think about the future of the UMC, what do you hope for? What vision excites you? Come and listen as our guests grapple with the challenges ahead.

On **Sunday, June 12**, at 9:00 am, J.J. will lead the Burnt Hills congregation in worship. Re-imagining the UMC of tomorrow, today! Following the service, the BHUMC Social Action Justice Group will be coordinating a delegation to attend in the Capital Pride Festival in Albany. The church is located at 816 Route 50, Burnt Hills.

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Food Truck Festival May 21, 2022 On a hot Saturday afternoon in the Pine and Pin Oak grove next to our parking lot, 5 food trucks cranked up their generators and delicious aromas rode the breeze. The Food Truck Festival began. Church Ministries...Missions, ECO Team, Made with Loving Hands, UMW/Women of Faith and Music...invited people to learn of the opportunities available to all in our congregation and community. The East Greenbush Fire Department brought one of their trucks for everyone to see, the East Greenbush Police also had a booth with handouts, and the Sheriff’s Department set up booths to make ID cards for children and had games and handouts for children and adults. We became a Norman Rockwell painting with musicians entertaining us while we ate scrumptious food, picnicked with friends and family; as children danced, twirled, and played games, and as we experienced good will and community. Thank you Amber Telford, Laura Clark, Tracey Haines and Aleta Schweigert for creating such a magical community building afternoon and thanks to all the volunteers for their creative booths and work.



LOOKING FOR HOSTS!

Are you interested in hosting a small get together to meet our new pastor? SPRC is looking for volunteers to host gatherings of parishioners, neighbors, family and friends to meet Pastor Danyal. Location, size, and activity are up to you. We are hoping these gatherings will occur in July, August, and September. Once we have volunteers, we can arrange dates and times with Pastor Danyal. If you are interested please send your name to Deb Rubenstein at druben@nycap.rr.com. There will also be a sign up in the foyer in the next month. Thank you in advance for helping our new pastor to feel welcome in our community.

Violetta is here for a visit



I just wanted to reach out to let you know that my mother, Violeta Dulay, is in Pennsylvania visiting me and my sister this summer. If you recall, my father (Samuel Dulay, M.D.) passed away in June of 2019. Soon after his funeral my mother went to the Philippines to live with her brothers and sisters.

Unfortunately, soon after this came the pandemic and travel to and from the Philippines was not possible. So my sister and I were unable to see our mother in person for almost three years. I hope you are all doing well in East Greenbush. My mother and I watched yesterday's service on YouTube.

My mother says hello ... she misses going to UMC East Greenbush.

Sincerely, Sam Dulay